



# Corral Notes

By Greg Lawley, Bureau Chief

2006

*Corral Notes* is a new publication that will provide you with updates from the Bureau of Livestock Identification each time you renew your brand. In this issue of *Corral Notes*, we'll provide you clarification on the renewal notice, discuss what most people don't know about the Bureau and enforcement and provide you with the opportunity to register your premises for animal health purposes.

## Renewal Notice Clarification

On the renewal notice that is enclosed, you will find a space for your phone number. This information is vital to brand inspectors and local law enforcement in the event we need to contact you immediately regarding your cattle.

When does a brand need to be transferred from one entity to another? A brand transfer is required with the addition or deletion of an owner's name or the transfer of a brand from an individual to a partnership or corporation. A Brand Transfer Form along with a \$60.00 fee is required. If you have any questions or need a form, please contact our office at (916) 654-0889.

Brand renewals may be paid electronically using American Express, MasterCard or Visa via the Internet at [www.californiabrand.com](http://www.californiabrand.com)

## Substantiation for Enforcement

When you pay your one-dollar for a brand inspection, you are paying for much more than just an inspection. Your dollar is paying for all of the time the inspector, supervisor and/or investigator spend identifying lost, stolen or strayed cattle. Your dollar also has to pay for the time spent assisting local law enforcement with the investigation and prosecution of individuals suspected of cattle theft.

In 2005, the Bureau assisted local law enforcement in the arrest of 19 individuals for cattle theft. Through our investigations, we returned 227 head of cattle to their rightful owners. Listed below are the theft cases that we were successful in obtaining a conviction in 2005:

**San Joaquin County** – On May 11, 2005, a juvenile was arrested for the theft of 28 heifers from a dairy where his father was employed.

**Calaveras County** – On June 22, 2005, a juvenile tried to sell eight steers at an auction market. The juvenile stole the steers from a former employer. The steers were returned to their owner and the juvenile later turned himself in to the Calaveras county sheriff's office.

**Stanislaus County** – On June 22, 2005, Cezar Mesa, Jr. and Francisco Juarez plead guilty to grand theft cattle. Cezar Mesa, Jr. was sentenced to 120 days in jail and Francisco Juarez was sentenced to 190 days in jail.

**Merced County** – On October 25, 2005, Mario Enrique Figueroa, Rogaciano Perez, and Adrian Reyes Perez were arrested on suspicion of grand theft. Figueroa admitted to his part in the theft of the calves

from a dairy in Gustine and to the theft of more than two hundred calves in the last two years. Figueroa said he had stolen so many calves that he wasn't sure from which dairies the calves were taken.

On November 11, 2005, José Silva pled no contest to possession of stolen property and was sentenced to ninety days in jail. Silva also had to pay \$3,660.00 in restitution to his victims. Forty-three Holstein Heifers were returned to the four victims.

**San Luis Obispo County** – On December 19, 2005, Adrian Gonzales pled guilty to grand theft and was sentenced to 300 days in jail and restitution. Gonzales stole thirteen cattle. Erin Paiva pled guilty to a misdemeanor and was sentenced to 20 days in jail and \$3,092.11 in restitution.

The California Cattlemen's Association offers a reward for substantial and accurate information on persons stealing, maiming or slaughtering cattle in California. Informants may remain anonymous. Call 1-800-671-8327

### **National Premises Enrollment Opportunity**

In the past year, you may have heard information about the **National Animal Identification System** (NAIS). The NAIS is being developed by the United States Department of Agriculture and State agencies in cooperation with industry to enable 48-hour traceback of any diseased or exposed animal. The program is designed to identify specific animals in the U.S. and record their lifetime movements. The NAIS information will provide animal health officials with the best tools to rapidly contain a disease and maximize protection of the U.S. animal population.

The first phase of the program seeks to identify locations (**premises**) where animals are born, managed, marketed, or exhibited. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is assisting animal owners in the process to obtain **National Premises Identification Numbers** for properties involved in livestock production or commerce in California. There is no cost for you to obtain a premises identification number and your participation is currently **voluntary**. When NAIS is fully implemented a premises number will be needed to obtain official tags and report certain movements such as taking cattle to an auction. If you are interested in obtaining a premises number, you can choose one of four options:

1. Complete the enclosed **Application for a National Premises Identification Number** and mail it back with your brand renewal payment.
2. Fax the enclosed Application to CDFA at (916) 653-2215.
3. Call the toll-free number (866) 325-5681.
4. Enroll online at [www.californiaid.org](http://www.californiaid.org) (This option allows you the greatest flexibility to submit updates).

To learn more about NAIS, you can visit the following online educational resources: [www.cdfa.ca.gov/pais](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/pais) or <http://animalscience.ucdavis.edu/animalID/> or [www.usda.gov/nais](http://www.usda.gov/nais)

If you have difficulty contacting a brand inspector in your area, please call (916) 654-0889. We will be glad to assist you or put you in contact with the appropriate regional brand supervisor. You can also contact me at the above phone number or [glawley@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:glawley@cdfa.ca.gov)



#### **Statistics for July 2004 – June 2005**

Cattle Inspected – 3,449,417 head  
Recorded Brands – 23,300  
Brand Inspectors – 58  
Missing and Stolen Cattle Reported – 1,076 head  
Value – \$727,037  
Stray Cattle Returned – 917 head  
Value \$843,112